

Christ *they* will know the forgiveness of *their* sins and the new life of the Spirit.

As *they* grow up, *they* will need the help and encouragement of the Christian community, so that *they* may learn to know God in public worship and private prayer, follow Jesus Christ in the life of faith, serve *their* neighbour after the example of Christ, and in due course come to confirmation.

As part of the Church of Christ, we all have a duty to support *them* by prayer, example and teaching. As *their* parents and godparents, you have the prime responsibility for guiding and helping *them* in *their* early years. This is a demanding task for which you will need the help and grace of God. Therefore let us now pray for grace in guiding *these children* in the way of faith.

**Faithful and loving God,
bless those who care for *these children*
and grant them your gifts of love, wisdom and faith.
Pour upon them your healing and reconciling love,
and protect their home from all evil.
Fill them with the light of your presence
and establish them in the joy of your kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

WELCOME

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
N, by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.
**We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
we welcome you.**

GIVING OF A LIGHTED CANDLE

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and has given us a place with the saints in light.

You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.
**Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father.**

The Baptism of Children

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us
that to enter the kingdom of heaven
we must be born again of water and the Spirit,
and has given us baptism
as the sign and seal of this new birth.
Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean.
Here we are clothed with Christ,
dying to sin that we may live his risen life.
As children of God, we have a new dignity
and God calls us to fullness of life.

Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is
adding to our number those whom he is calling.
People of God, will you welcome *these children* and uphold
them in *their* new life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

Parents and godparents, the Church receives *these children*
with joy. Today we are trusting God for *their* growth in faith.
Will you pray for *them*, draw *them* by your example into the
community of faith and walk with *them* in the way of Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

In baptism *these children* begin *their* journey in faith. You speak
for *them* today. Will you care for *them*, and help *them* to take
their place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

With the help of God, we will.

THE DECISION

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous
light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life
with him. Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and
neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his cross.

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

**Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ
against sin, the world and the devil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,
restore in you the image of his glory, and lead you in the light
and obedience of Christ. **Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE WATER

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ
was baptized in the river Jordan,
we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse us and revive us.

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea
you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the Promised Land.
We thank you that through the deep waters of death
you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph.
Now bless your *servants* who are washed in this water, that
they may be made one with Christ in his death and in his
resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

Send your Holy Spirit upon *them*,
bring *them* to new birth in the household of faith
and raise *them* with Christ to full and eternal life;
for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us affirm,
together with these who are being baptized,
our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

THE BAPTISM

N, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church,
pour upon you the riches of his grace,
that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people
you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit,
and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

Amen.

THE COMMISSION

We have brought *these children* to baptism knowing that Jesus
died and rose again for *them* and trusting in the promise that
God hears and answers prayer. We have prayed that in Jesus